



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 7 MAY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to Security Council draft resolution S/1999/517 of 6 May 1999, dealing with the consequences and not with the cause of the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, I would like to point out once again that the lack of readiness of the Council to condemn the aggression continues to cause a humanitarian catastrophe all over Yugoslavia. My country is ready to have humanitarian assistance distributed in all parts of Yugoslavia, but such efforts have been rendered impossible by the continued bombing of NATO, primarily of civilian targets.

The bombing as been aimed at demoralizing, and causing suffering to, the population and has devastated entire areas of Belgrade, Novi Sad, Pancevo, Nis, Cacak, Vranje, Valjevo, Surdulica, Aleksinac, Pristina, Djakovica, Prizren, Kosovo Polje, Urosevac, Kursumlija and Kragujevac. NATO has been using weapons banned by international conventions, such as delayed-effect cluster bombs which inflict uncontrolled casualties, particularly among children (Srbica, Doganovici, Milica Rakic at Batajnica, 12 children in the refugee convoy near Djakovica and 12 children at Surdulica), depleted uranium ammunition and graphite bombs whose short-circuiting of the power grid of the country has affected all 11 million citizens of Yugoslavia, particularly newly born babies in incubators, the sick and the elderly. NATO planes have also targeted refugees (75 were killed near Djakovica and 100 in the refugee centres at Djakovica, Pristina, Kursumlija and Loznica, providing shelter to the Serbs expelled from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia). Fifty-five people were killed in a strike against a passenger train in the Grdelica gorge, 60 in a bus attacked near Luzani and 20 in a bus attacked on the Pec-Rozaje road. Sixteen people were killed in the bombing of the building of the radio and television station in Belgrade on 23 April and this, alongside the bombing of the radio and television station building in Novi Sad on 3 May and the "Usce" building in Belgrade housing three private television and four radio stations on 21 April, is telling proof of the intention of the aggressor to prevent the spread of information about the size of the humanitarian catastrophe. The humanitarian catastrophe has been additionally aggravated by the destruction of industrial plants which left more than half a million people jobless and 2 million people without any source of income whatsoever. Four hospitals and two maternity wards



have been damaged in Belgrade, as well as hospitals in Cuprija, Aleksinac, Nis, Pristina, Valjevo, Pancevo and Surdulica. Over 300 school facilities have been destroyed and the education of over 1 million pupils and students has been cut short.

The only way to prevent further catastrophe is an immediate cessation of the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Dealing with the issue in isolation, as is done in the said draft resolution, amounts to a diversion of attention from the real causes, namely, the NATO aggression, as the most flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
